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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 878
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend The Alvin C. York VA Medical Center for 60 outstanding years of service to the veterans of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those exemplary institutions that have evidenced an abiding commitment to excellence and therefore are a credit to this state; and

WHEREAS, sixty years ago, on January 1, 1940, the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center was established in Murfreesboro to serve the exemplary veterans of this nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the center was opened in order to provide a bucolic, rural haven, outside of the busy modern world, for recuperating war veterans; as part of their therapy and sustenance, the patients also worked the land, raising strawberries, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and broom corn, from which they made brooms to sell; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, the medical center began a formal association with Meharry Medical School and broadened its services and mission beyond that of a psychiatric hospital;

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primary care is the foundation of the center's ambulatory care program and is provided through its clinic and community-based clinics located in Tullahoma and Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, the medical center was formally dedicated as the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in 1985, as a lasting tribute to the heroic military service, dedication, and integrity of this state's most decorated war veteran, Alvin C. York; and

WHEREAS, naming the medical center in Sgt. York's honor served to memorialize the heroism and valor of Tennessee's veterans, who have brought great honor to this state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the ACYVAMC, one of seven anchor hospitals in the VA Mid South Healthcare Network, is a fully accredited 243-bed general medical, surgical, and psychiatric care facility offering primary and secondary care in acute medicine and surgery and a full range of psychiatric and extended care; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the facility has a 135-bed nursing home care unit and is a referral center for extended care and psychiatry for Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, the center has cared for more than 22,577 veterans with over 3,455 admissions and 188,184 outpatient visits; the center's motto, "Looking to the Future from a Proud Heritage," is exhibited throughout the facility by the more than 1,195 professional, technical, and support personnel working there; and

WHEREAS, the center's exemplary staff is reinforced by more than 371 volunteers who are committed to serving the veterans of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, eager to continue their greatly needed services for veterans into the future, the ACYVAMC has received approval for the integration of the facility with Nashville VA Medical Centers and for the joint establishment of a Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center by the two medical centers and their affiliates, Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, for sixty years, the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center has been an impeccable model for other veterans service institutions to emulate; and

WHEREAS, it is more than fitting that we pause in our deliberations to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable institution and its outstanding administration and staff; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the administration and professional, technical and support personnel of the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center on the occasion of the center's 60th Anniversary, and extend to everyone affiliated with the center our best wishes for every continued success in their laudable mission to serve this nations veteran.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.